

# Practice Connect

Issue 23: 4 July 2017

Keeping General Practice informed in the changing primary health landscape.

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**Welcome to Practice Connect, a fortnightly update for practice managers, nurses and practice administration staff on relevant issues, upcoming events and education.**

## Changes to ENT referral criteria

From 1 July 2017, the Department of Health's Central Referral Service (CRS) has changed the ENT referrals criteria for adult rhinosinusitis, tonsillitis, tinnitus, vertigo, otitis externa, hearing loss and removal of ear wax.

Only referrals requiring specialist-level care will be accepted. WAPHA is supporting GPs with these changes by updating and adapting information on HealthPathways for WA. GPs can consult HealthPathways for the referral criteria for the ENT conditions listed above as well as for information regarding primary care management of these conditions. HealthPathways has already localised the pathways for the following conditions:

- Ear Wax
- Otitis Externa

The pathways for the following conditions are currently in the process of being adapted for WA. These include:

- Hearing Loss
- Rhinosinusitis
- Tinnitus
- Tonsillitis
- Vertigo

They will be published as they become available however they still contain useful condition assessment and management information as well as the new referral criteria. If you have any queries regarding HealthPathways, please email [healthpathways@wapha.org.au](mailto:healthpathways@wapha.org.au).

For more information regarding the changes to the ENT referral criteria, please visit the WA Health website - <http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/ENT>

## Digital Health

### Reminder: ePIP quarter closes on 31 July

Practices registered for the ePIP will need to ensure they have uploaded enough shared health summaries to My Health Record within this quarter to meet their minimum requirement. This is 0.5% of your Standard Whole Patient Equivalent (SWPE) from the previous quarter, or a minimum of 5 summary uploads for new practices or those with a SWPE of 1000 or less.

The upload target is for the practice as a whole, not per GP. If you don't think you will reach your upload target it is recommended that you withdraw from the current quarter to avoid being asked to pay back any monies paid. This must be done prior to the end of the quarter via HPOS. Your Primary Health Liaison can check to see how many more summaries you may need to upload prior 31 July.



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**HealthPathways WA 294 Live Pathways**

## Immunisation Update

### Influenza Vaccination During Pregnancy

Vaccination remains the best protection for pregnant women and their newborn babies against influenza.

Despite influenza vaccination being available free to pregnant women on the National Immunisation Program, vaccination rates remain low with only 1 in 3 pregnant women receiving the influenza vaccine. Influenza infection during pregnancy can lead to premature delivery and even death in newborns and very young babies. Pregnant women can have the vaccine at any time during pregnancy and they benefit from it all through the year.

Educational videos for health professionals and pregnant women regarding free flu shots can be found on our website at: <http://www.wapha.org.au/influenza-vaccination-during-pregnancy/>

For further information visit the Immunise Australia website Pregnant Women page at: <http://immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/pregnant-women>

### Rabies

Rabies infection remains a problem worldwide with the virus enzootic in Asia, Africa, North and South America and parts of Europe, meaning that the virus is constantly presenting in animal populations in these areas. Although the majority of human rabies infections are caused by exposure to infected dogs, all mammals are susceptible to rabies. Bats may carry rabies-like viruses in countries which are declared rabies-free in terrestrial animals. Exposure to bats or their secretions should also be considered as a potential rabies risk wherever in the world this has occurred, including Australia.

For Western Australians, most potential rabies exposures occur in travellers to South East Asia who have sustained bite or scratch wounds from animals. Travellers to enzootic rabies regions should be advised to avoid contact with wild or domestic animals and educated on what to do if bitten or scratched by an animal while abroad. Pre-exposure vaccination for rabies virus and other lyssavirus is available on prescription for travellers to rabies enzootic areas and for persons at occupational risk of exposure. Further information on preventing rabies infections can be found in the relevant chapter of the Australian Immunisation Handbook 10th edition at:

[http://immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/7B28E87511E08905CA257D4D001DB1F8/\\$File/Aus-Imm-Handbook.pdf](http://immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/7B28E87511E08905CA257D4D001DB1F8/$File/Aus-Imm-Handbook.pdf).

Post-exposure rabies prophylaxis, vaccination and, where required rabies immunoglobulin, is funded by the Health Department of Western Australia for persons exposed to bites or scratches overseas from terrestrial animals in enzootic countries and to persons exposed to bats either overseas or in Australia. Health practitioners can obtain further information on accessing post exposure prophylaxis for potential rabies or bat lyssavirus exposures for their patients by contacting the Metropolitan Communicable Disease Control team on 9222 8588 (office hours) OR the on-call duty officer on 9388 0553 (weekends, public holidays and after hours).

## Medical Indemnity Insurance for Practice Nurses

All nurses must be covered by appropriate Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) in order to practice and maintain registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA). Nurses may hold their own private PII or they may be covered by their employer's PII coverage for employees.

It is important that employers and nurses discuss whether and to what extent the practice's insurance covers nurses employed in the practice for professional indemnity. All parties should satisfy themselves that the insurance arrangements in place are adequate and seek independent advice if necessary.

To find out if your general practice is eligible to participate in the Practice Nurse Incentive Program please see read page three and four of the PNIP Guidelines regarding eligibility requirements at:

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/health-professionals/services/medicare/practice-nurse-incentive-programme>

## Expressions of Interest for Sustainable Health Review Reference Groups

This week the State Government launched the Sustainable Health Review. It will look at how the WA Health system can harness value and innovation to further improve health outcomes and ensure that Western Australians are receiving quality health care that can be sustained for our future generations.

Expressions of interest are now open for the Clinical Reference Group and the Consumer and Carer Reference Group. Please visit the Sustainable Health Review Reference Group site at: <http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Improving-WA-Health/Sustainable-health-review/Reference-groups>.

Expressions of interest will close at 9.00am, Monday 10 July 2017.

For further information, please visit the Sustainable Health Review site at: <http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Improving-WA-Health/sustainable-health-review>.

## Do you see patients with musculoskeletal disorders?

The University of Queensland is running a national survey targeting clinicians from different disciplines who see patients with musculoskeletal disorders. The survey below explores the attributes that clinicians require in order to help patients make use of these services and strategies. The success or failure of management strategies used by clinicians to manage patients with chronic musculoskeletal conditions often hinges on the patient's uptake of the recommended health services and strategies. The findings of the survey will be formally delivered to education providers (universities, hospitals etc) to inform curricula and relevant training programmes in the future. Further information regarding the survey is provided within the link below.

To complete an anonymous, 10 minute national survey please follow this link:

<https://survey.its.uq.edu.au/Checkbox/Survey.aspx?s=aa3b93d2b47d423d98c2aef274515330>.

## National Bowel Cancer Screening Program Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Resources

June was Bowel Cancer Awareness Month. We are currently focusing on improving participation rates in the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program. If detected early, 90% of bowel cancer cases can be successfully treated.

WA's Department of Health has recently developed some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander resources to promote bowel screening. The following resources are now available on WA's Department of Health website:

- Lookin' good flipchart - [http://www.healthnetworks.health.wa.gov.au/cancer/docs/HP10962\\_ATSI\\_bowel\\_cancer\\_flip\\_chart.pdf](http://www.healthnetworks.health.wa.gov.au/cancer/docs/HP10962_ATSI_bowel_cancer_flip_chart.pdf)
- Lookin' good poster - [http://www.healthnetworks.health.wa.gov.au/cancer/docs/HP11143\\_ATSI\\_bowel\\_cancer\\_poster.pdf](http://www.healthnetworks.health.wa.gov.au/cancer/docs/HP11143_ATSI_bowel_cancer_poster.pdf)
- Lookin' good brochure - [http://www.healthnetworks.health.wa.gov.au/cancer/docs/12400\\_Lookin\\_good\\_bowel.pdf](http://www.healthnetworks.health.wa.gov.au/cancer/docs/12400_Lookin_good_bowel.pdf)
- Lookin' good community brochure – <http://www.wapha.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/DOH-Multicultural-Bowel-Cancer-Screening-8pp-DL....pdf>
- Making Time DVD - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rOX48m0xT8A>

## Important changes to the WA Quitline Service – please update your records

From 1 July 2016 the Western Australian Quitline Service has been delivered by Cancer Council South Australia, resulting in some contact detail changes. The telephone number 13 7848 remains unchanged however, the following changes have occurred:

- WA Quitline Service's fax number has changed: 08 8291 4280
- WA Quitline Service's email address has changed: [quitline@cancersa.org.au](mailto:quitline@cancersa.org.au)
- Online referral is also available at [www.quitlinesa.org.au](http://www.quitlinesa.org.au)
- **Opening hours:** Monday – Friday: 7.00am – 8.00pm, Saturday: 12.30pm – 3.30pm, Sunday: Closed

Opening and closing times will be one hour earlier during daylight savings time.

Please note, you must update these details as from 1 July 2017 referrals to the WA Quitline Service that are sent in error to the previous fax number will no longer be forwarded to the current service provider.

## Education and Training

To keep our e-news to a manageable size events will only be advertised once. To view previously advertised training please visit our website - <http://www.wapha.org.au/education-events/>

### Immunisation Coalition: 2017 Pneumococcal Webinar

This webinar will provide an update on the latest facts about pneumococcal disease, and learn about the Pneumococcal Disease Vaccination Tool.

Date: 5 July  
Time: 5:00pm  
Venue: Online – join via your computer.  
Cost: Free  
Registration: <http://www.immunisationcoalition.org.au/resources/pneumococcal-webinar-2017/>

### Perth Diabetes Care

These seminars will look at the topic of Mental Health & Medication Awareness in people living with diabetes.

#### Mental Health & Medication Awareness – Monday, 10 July

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm  
Venue: Pharmaceutical Society of WA, 21 Hamilton St, Subiaco  
Catering: Light refreshments provided  
Cost: Free  
Registration: Send your details to [events@perthdiabetescare.com.au](mailto:events@perthdiabetescare.com.au) or call (08) 6110 0570

#### Mental Health & Medication Awareness – Wednesday, 12 July

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm  
Venue: Women's Health Care Place, 4 The Avenue, Midland  
Catering: Light refreshments provided  
Cost: Free  
Registration: Send your details to [events@perthdiabetescare.com.au](mailto:events@perthdiabetescare.com.au) or call (08) 6110 0570

#### Mental Health & Medication Awareness – Tuesday, 18 July

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm  
Venue: University of Notre Dame, 39 Henry St, Fremantle  
Catering: Light refreshments provided  
Cost: Free  
Registration: Send your details to [events@perthdiabetescare.com.au](mailto:events@perthdiabetescare.com.au) or call (08) 6110 0570

### Perth General Practice Conference and Exhibition

This two-day conference provides education sessions, practical workshops and daily keynotes covering general practice topics and issues.

Date: 22 & 23 July  
Time: 8:30am – 4:30pm (both days)  
Venue: Crown Perth Convention Centre

Registration: [https://ep.ozaccomm.com.au/public/GPCE2017PER/login.aspx?\\_ga=2.26080509.1156640862.1498717891-572135736.1498717891](https://ep.ozaccomm.com.au/public/GPCE2017PER/login.aspx?_ga=2.26080509.1156640862.1498717891-572135736.1498717891)

### **Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA) Foundations of General Practice Nursing 2 day workshop**

The two-day workshop will provide an understanding of roles, responsibilities and skills necessary for nurses working in the primary health/general practice environment.

Date: 8 & 9 September  
Time: 8:45am – 5:00pm both days (8:30am registration)  
Venue: Cliftons - Parmelia House, 191 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000  
Cost: APNA member: \$320; Non-member: \$420  
Registration: <https://www.apna.asn.au/workflows/event>

### **Better Pain Management Initiative**

Better Pain Management is an online education program, designed for specialist and general medical practitioners, medical students, nurses and allied health practitioners engaged in the care of patients with persistent pain. It is a self-directed course of twelve online education modules each designed to be completed in one hour.

Initiative: <https://www.betterpainmanagement.com/>  
Online Modules: <http://fpm.anzca.edu.au/resources/better-pain-management#modules>

## **Health Promotion Events in July**

Is your practice looking for a health promotion activity for your practice? Each month we will provide a list of upcoming health promotion activities for the next month along with resources and contact details.

### **NAIDOC Week 2 – 9 July**

This year's theme for NAIDOC is 'Our Languages Matter'. This week aims to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and emphasise the importance languages play in cultural identity. This website includes ideas on how to celebrate NAIDOC week.

Website: <http://www.naidoc.org.au/celebrating-naidoc-week>

### **National Diabetes Week 9 – 15 July**

This year's theme for National Diabetes Week is 'About Time'. Diabetes WA is encouraging people to increase their understanding and awareness of symptoms to inform earlier diagnosis and improve the longer-term health outcomes of people who are at risk of developing diabetes or already living with diabetes. This website contains information, resources and events for both consumers and health professionals.

Website: <https://diabeteswa.com.au/get-involved/news-and-events/whats-on/>

### **National Pain Week 24 – 30 July**

The Chronic Pain Association encourages people to participate in the Pain is Not Invisible 2017 project by taking a survey and submitting their story to continue to improve pain information, resources and services. This website includes resources and information on how to manage pain.

Website: <http://www.nationalpainweek.org.au/>

### **World Hepatitis Day 28 July**

The World Health Organisation encourages people to increase their understanding and awareness of viral hepatitis to work towards eliminating it. The website contains fact sheets, reports and other related links.

Website: <http://www.who.int/campaigns/hepatitis-day/2017/event/en/>